

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 A-01 CU-04 SCCT-02 EA-11

AF-10 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 281648Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 2-28-75

TAGS: PFOR PINS LE US

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY IN LEBANON

1. FEB 26 ARRIVAL OF AMEBASSADOR AND HIS FAMILY
AT BEIRUT AIRPORT WAS MARKED BY HEAVY GOL SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS, OWING TO REPORTS THAT PALESTINIANS AND

LOCAL PRO-

-FEDAYEFN ELEMENTS WERE PLANNING HOLD PROTEST
DEMONSTRATIONS ON ROADS LEADING TO AIRPORT AND TO
FACT THAT PRO-FEDAYEEN DAILY, AL MUHARRIR, ON BASIS OF
LEAK THAT APPARENTLY STEMMED FROM LEBANESE FONOFF,
HAD ACCURATELY PREDICTED AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL DAY.
(SMALL DEMONSTRATION DID OCCUR ON MAIN ROAD LEADING TO
AIRPORT, BUT PROTESTORS

WERE DISPERSED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY
BY INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. FOLLOWING BRIEF OFFICIAL WELCOME BY
PROTOCOL OFFICER FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR PROCEEDED
TO RESIDENCE WITHOUT INCIDENCE.

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2. FEB 27 AND 28 ALSO WITNESSED SYMBOLIC STUDENT STRIKES AND SCATTERED SMALL RALLIES AT VARIOUS LOCAL UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING AUB, IN WHAT IS BEING BILLED AS COMBINED PROTEST AGAINST AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S ARRIVAL, SECRETARY'S CURRENT VISIT TO ME AND ALLEGED "CONCENTRATIONS" OF ISRAELI TROOPS ON SOUTHERN BORDER. WHILE INDEPENDENT AND CONSERVATIVE PAPERS HAVE GENERALLY REPORTED THIS AGITATION FACTUALLY, PRO-FEDAYEEN, LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST PRESS IS SENSATIONALIZING IT IN EFFORT CONVEY IMPRESSION OF WIDESPREAD "POPULAR" OPPOSITION TO NEW AMBASSADOR AND US ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT. IN ADDITION, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY STAR ON FEB 72 CARRIED VICIOUS PROFILE ARTICLE BY AMERICAN WRITER BARRY RUBIN REHASHING LURID ALLEGATIONS OF AMBASSADOR'S "ACTIVITIES" IN CONGO AND LAOS AND STUDDING THEM WITH JUICY YARNS RE HIS ALLEGED WARLIKE PROPENSITIES

OBTAINED FROM ONE T.D. ALLMAN, "WIDELY RESPECTED WRITER ON SE ASIA". THIS INCLUDED, INTER ALIA, CHARGES THAT HE HAD PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN DEATH OF LUMUMBA, RENDERED 10,000 LAOTIANS HOMELESS AND PERSONALLY DIRECTED BATTLES ON PLAIN OF JARS. RUBIN ARTICLE (TEXT BEING POUCHED NEA"ARN) WARNED: "ANY COUNTRY RECEIVING (GODLEY) AS AN ENVOY MIGHT WELL WORRY ABOUT ITS FUTURE"... PREDICTABLY, AL MUHARRIR RAN ARABIC TRANSLATION OF RUBIN ARTICLE FEB 28, PLACING ABOVE QUOTE IN BANNER HEADLINES AND DEVOTING ENTIRE PAGE TO PHOTOS AND ACCOUNTS OF ALLEGED AMERICAN "ATROCITIES" IN INDO-CHINA. IN ADDITION, MUHARRIR, LEFTIST ASH SHAAB, AND COMMUNIST AL NIDA HAVE ALL JOINED IN INVEIGHING EDITORIALY AGAINST GOL'S APPROVAL OF AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S APPOINTMENT, CALLING HIM "MURDERER", "BUTCHER", "CRIMINAL" AND "FILTH SENT BY US IMPERIALISM TO OUR COUNTRY" AND DEMANDING HIS RECALL.

3. COMMENT: WHILE AGITATION DESCRIBED ABOVE IS CONFINED ENTIRELY TO LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS ALREADY GINNED UP BY PREVIOUS ANTI-GODLEY CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED HERE BY LEFTIST PRESS IN RECENT WEEKS AND IS LIKELY TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON LDKRESE PUBLIC OPINION AS A WHOLE, WE BELIEVE IT COULD INCITE SOME FURTHER STUDENT AND EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN ACTION BY EXTREMISTS ALREADY AROUSED OVER PROGRESS TO DATE OF ME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. GOL SECURITY OFFICIALS, WHO NORMALLY TEND TO PLAY DOWN LOCAL THREATS TO US INTERESTS INLEBANON, HAVE INDICATED SOME CONCERN OVER THIS POSSIBILITY. GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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